**Small Group Notes – Sunday, 15th January 2017**

**Life in the Spirit (Spiritual Gifts, Ministering like Jesus) – Serving**

**Welcome**

1. What is the best quality service you have ever received anywhere? What was it that made it so special?

or…

1. Which would you rather do…

* Serve on the tennis court or serve in the kitchen? Why?
* Wash someone else’s feet, or have your own feet washed?

**Worship**

Read John 13:1-17 and Philippians 2:1-11 again together. Use them as a stimulus for praising Jesus for who he is and what he has done for us…

**Word – Serving**

**Who serves?**

1. Christ
2. Particular individuals with the particular gift
3. All of us are called to serve

In summary: Christ served us first. Christ served us all. We are all called to serve, to serve each other and to serve Him.

**Why do we serve?**

1. Because we are united with Christ
2. Because we are motivated by Christ
3. Because we are empowered by Christ, through his Spirit

Aim: We serve to glorify Christ.

**How can we serve?**

1. In Welcome
2. In Worship
3. In Word
4. In Witness

**Possible questions for discussion:**

1. What can we learn from the way Christ models serving in the passages in John 13 and Philippians 2? Are there other examples of Christ serving others which we should seek to learn from?
2. Think of the people you know who have the gift of serving? What can we learn from them that we can apply ourselves in our own serving?
3. Do you find it easier to serve those within the body of Christ, or those who don’t yet know Christ? How can we seek to “be Christ” in both of those situations?
4. Why are the questions of identity and relationship so important as we seek to serve?
5. How can we ensure that our motivation for serving is rooted in our desire to glorify God, rather than to feel good about ourselves or to gain the approval of others?
6. How important is the Holy Spirit in the area of serving, which seems fairly “down to earth”?
7. What examples can you think of (biblical or contemporary) of people serving in Welcome, Worship, Word or Witness?
8. How do we ensure that our service truly serves as a witness to Christ?
9. How do you feel about any areas that you are already serving in, or would like to serve in? How do you feel about serving in general? Is there a particular area you would like to serve in? Is there an area of serving that perhaps you need to take a break from?
10. Reflect on the questions: Where do you stand? What’s in your hand? Where is your land? What do you think God might be saying to you, and how might you respond?

**Prayer**

* Pray about anything that has come up from your discussion of the above questions…
* Pray for those who serve: amongst our own fellowship, locally, nationally and internationally…
* Pray for Roger Pearce teaching at Bible school in Serbia until 25th January
* Pray about the forthcoming church plant and the new congregation at NMBC. Listen to what God may be saying to you about serving in these ventures.